Smith gained discipline and friends, while in **the** Army.

"I met a broad spectrum of people from all over **the** United States," he said. "Spending time in another country was an education in itself."

Smith attended Chapman College, in Orange, Calif., on **the** GI Bill. He earned a bachelor's degree in sociology, and he minored in criminal justice.

Smith worked in **the** drug abuse prevention program coordinator's office at **the** Orange County Department of Mental Health.

After moving to Washington State in 1977, he spent two years in construction, in east Vancouver. Smith framed houses in **the** Cascade Park area, before **the** Interstate 205 Glenn Jackson Bridge was built.

He was a teacher's aide for a third-grade class, for one year, at Skamania School.

That was followed by one year as an aide for eighth-graders.

"That was **the** best job I've ever had — **the** lowest paying, but **the** best — with all due respect to my postal customers," Smith said. "It was fun, working with **the** kids."

"Little kids are now adults with kids of their own. They ask, 'Are you still here?'"

— **Dan** Smith, 33 year USPS employee

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